

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. No medical research is being carried on in China at the present time, with the possible exception of activities at the Peiping Union Medical College. The Chinese, however, are spending considerable time discussing the need for research and what can be learned from the medical research achievements of the Soviet Union. The average Chinese physician cannot give a clear explanation of what direction Chinese research should follow in emulating the Soviets, possibly because the Chinese physician is ignorant of Soviet accomplishments. One Soviet treatment, Filatov's tissue therapy, is probably being studied in China.
2. The Chinese Communists have emphasized improvement of the general health of the population and have achieved some success in their effort. The campaign begun in 1951 to administer smallpox vaccine to all the people was met with vigorous opposition by most of the citizens. By continual propaganda, however, the authorities have been able to overcome the reluctance to accept vaccination. Physicians set up their equipment at the most travelled crossroads and offer to vaccinate anyone who so desires. This offer is being willingly accepted by the average Chinese citizen who has become convinced that the measure is for his own welfare. The BCG vaccination of children is another program which is being successfully carried on.
3. The Chinese Communist administration is faced with an acute shortage of medically trained personnel and may begin an accelerated program for the training of medical workers.
4. An outbreak of cholera occurred in Hunan Province in the summer of 1952.
5. There is a 30-bed hospital in Changsha, Hunan, sponsored by the China Inland Mission, which had its headquarters in Shanghai before the summer of 1952 when it moved its office operations to Singapore. The hospital was turned over to the government before the summer of 1952. The Chinese used the hospital primarily for outpatients, rather than for hospitalization; therefore, there is no problem of a bed shortage.

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